

COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation
September 15, 2004

**SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION PROJECT:
MALIBU CREEK STEELHEAD BARRIER REMOVAL**

File No. 00-117
Project Manager: Marc Beyeler

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorize the disbursement of additional funds to the Malibu Coastal Land Conservancy to complete the Malibu Creek Steelhead Barrier Removal Project authorized by the Conservancy in June 4, 2003, to implement the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Plan, approved by the Conservancy on August 2, 2001.

LOCATION: Santa Monica Bay & Malibu Creek sub-watershed, L.A. County (Exhibit 1)

PROGRAM CATEGORY: Resource Enhancement

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1: Project Location

Exhibit 2: Staff Recommendation June 4, 2003

RESOLUTION AND FINDINGS:

Staff recommends that the State Coastal Conservancy adopt the following Resolution pursuant to Sections 31251-31270 of the Public Resources Code:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of additional funds not to exceed five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) to the Malibu Coastal Land Conservancy to complete the Malibu Creek Steelhead Barrier Removal Project (“Project”), which the Conservancy approved on June 4, 2003 and which implements the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Plan, approved by the Conservancy on August 2, 2000, subject to the conditions of the Conservancy’s June 4, 2003 authorization..”

Staff further recommends that the Conservancy adopt the following findings:

“Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed project remains consistent with the Conservancy’s June 4, 2003 findings regarding the Conservancy’s enabling legislation Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines; Local Coastal Plan; and the California Environmental Quality Act.
2. The Malibu Coastal Land Conservancy is a nonprofit organization existing under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, and whose purposes are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code.”

PROJECT SUMMARY:

The proposed project is to authorize additional funding to the Malibu Coastal Land Conservancy (MCLC) for the Malibu Creek Steelhead Barrier Removal Project which was approved by the Conservancy on June 4, 2003, and which implements the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Plan (Bay Plan) (Exhibit 2- June 2003 staff rec). The at-grade (“Arizona”) road crossing is the only steelhead trout migration barrier on Lower Malibu Creek. The current crossing will be removed and a 130-foot bridge installed in its place in order to allow stream-flow and steelhead trout to pass freely under the bridge. The project will open up approximately 2.1 miles of spawning and rearing habitat within Malibu Creek State Park.

At the June 2003 meeting, the Coastal Conservancy approved grant funding in the amount of \$400,000 for this project. After completion of the final bridge design, engineering and permitting, construction bids came in at \$1.275 million, significantly higher than originally estimated and granted to the Malibu Coastal Land Conservancy (MCLC). Several factors have contributed to increased design and construction costs, including changes in the final design of the pier-supported design, need for additional dewatering and water pollution control plans and significant increases in the costs of both concrete (+40%) and steel (+25%).

The MCLC has agreed to increase its contribution to \$375,000. To date, all pre-project, engineering, and permitting costs have been funded by the MCLC through funds provided by the Serra Canyon Homeowners Association. On July 22, 2004, the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Watershed Council approved a recommendation to the Coastal Conservancy to increase funding from Proposition 12 from \$400,000 to a total of \$900,000.

PROJECT FINANCING:

Proposition 12-Santa Monica Bay	\$900,000
Matching Funds	<u>375,000</u>
Total Project Cost	\$1,275,000

The source of Conservancy funds is an appropriation to the Conservancy from Proposition 12, the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000, for projects to implement the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Plan. The

state budgets for FY 2000/01, FY 01-02, and FY 02-03 include the full \$25,000,000 for implementing the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Plan.

SITE DESCRIPTION, PROJECT HISTORY, CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S ENABLING LEGISLATION, CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS & OBJECTIVES, CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA & GUIDELINES CONSISTENCY WITH LOCAL COASTAL PROGRAM POLICIES COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA; These sections remain consistent with the Conservancy's June 2003 staff recommendation (Exhibit 2).

EXHIBIT 2
June 4, 2003 Staff Recommendation

EXHIBIT 3

Bay Watershed Council Resolution

